

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Welcome to the 2017 edition of *Oklahoma Politics*.

We have lost our longtime colleague, Dr. Tony Wohlers. He's fine, but he no longer resides in Oklahoma, having recently accepted a deanship at a college in Vermont. He and his wife left in early August and he is missed. Not only was he a good friend, but he managed the Oklahoma Political Science Association for five years as OPSA's president and for much of that time was editor of *Oklahoma Politics*. Many helped him along the way, but at the end of the day the buck stopped with him—and he was good at it. Collegial, collaborative, erudite, and ethical. Who would not miss a man of such integrity, talent, and commitment?

The transition, to be frank, has been a bit bumpy. The good news is that nobody has jumped ship. We believe that the 2017 edition of our annual journal attests to the quality work of the editors and the scholars from all over the state who have contributed papers, research notes, and book reviews. The same can be said for the 2017 conference. As of this writing the conference is a few weeks down the road, but we are confident that it will be well worth the time of anyone who is able to attend. In addition to the interesting panels, papers, and scheduled roundtables, we are delighted that the event is being managed by one of our state's premier student-oriented political science instructors and a long-time OPSA member, Dr. Christine Pappas. If you've seen her in action or read her work, then you also know her to be a remarkably talented educator as well as a dedicated contributor to our organization.

The 2017 issue of *Oklahoma Politics* is as varied and absorbing as any we've published. The prolific Aimee Franklin at the University of Oklahoma, working with several colleagues, explores the “volatile and fickle” revenue streams that often result from fossil fuel

extraction. She and her associates present models that compare an array of states' experiences. Some states have pursued short term uses of fossil fuel revenues while others have invested for the long term. The differences are striking, raising questions as to whether Oklahoma's leaders are sufficiently versed in the histories of these various uses of this bounty from extractive resources.

In a second contribution to this issue, Dr. Franklin and associates address the enduring challenge of how to extract value from the kinship among conception, design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy. After all, it was in 1999 that Nancy Shulock wrote her influential article, "The Paradox of Policy Analysis: If It Is Not Used, Why Do We Produce So Much of It?" Yet the hammer of time keeps pounding away at the potential problem-solving elements that common sense are laying in the nest under the same hen. Experience, however, tells us just the opposite. Why can't human potential be realized for social benefit? As if coming to the rescue, Franklin and colleagues infer from the data that careful, attentive management cannot be taken for granted; indeed, their research challenges organizations to develop cultures which can collaborate and thereby make use of solutions awaiting proper tending. That is to say, it is not enough to make reasonable pronouncements or to cite best practices; rather, there is no substitute for active administrative support, ongoing collaboration, and a consistent focus on meaningful outcomes.

Quite a different contribution is offered by Roger State University's Quentin Taylor. Dr. Taylor reaches back to the late nineteenth century to illuminate the sharp-edged observations about Oklahoma by James Bryce, an English diplomat and famous historian whose reporting on America gained a wide audience in the English-speaking world. Taylor explores Bryce's observations on Oklahoma's lengthy constitution and its embrace of popular sovereignty mechanisms such as the initiative and referendum. More broadly, the author argues that Oklahoma's constitution was an outgrowth of Populism as opposed to Progressivism as some scholars have maintained. In a separate research note, Taylor goes back to the early nineteenth century, where

he delves into the largely overlooked role of James Madison in the development of federal Indian policy.

In a similar vein Aaron Mason draws a connection between the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment (1865) and its bearing on the future of Oklahoma's Five Civilized Tribes. In his article Dr. Mason acknowledges the "common viewpoint" of the Amendment, yet explains how the national government used it as a lawful instrument in order to rollback self-government for Native Americans. Educated readers are well aware of how Jim Crow dishonored the noble intentions of the Thirteenth Amendment. Mason's investigation reveals the ironic impact the Amendment had on Native Americans.

Finally, University of Oklahoma professors Bracic, Isreal-Trummel, and Shortle's field work using undergraduate students to collect data on the 2016 state questions, demonstrates the quality, utility, and psychological benefits of such an exercise for both faculty and students. Their timely work gives us a better understanding of how voters behave regarding state ballot initiatives.

The Book Review Editor of *Oklahoma Politics*, Christine Pappas, brings together a series of reviews covering politics in Oklahoma and beyond.

We would like to thank all the contributors to this year's edition of *Oklahoma Politics*. We would also like to encourage scholars and practitioners to submit their research manuscripts and book reviews for consideration in future editions.

Steve Housel

Interim President, OPSA

Quentin Taylor, Carolyn Taylor

Co-Editors in Chief, Oklahoma Politics